

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Method for the preparation of crosslinked enzyme aggregates, comprising the steps of:

A – providing a plurality of enzyme molecules,

B – aggregating the enzymes in a liquid medium, comprising a precipitating agent,

C – crosslinking the aggregated enzymes to one another by providing a crosslinking agent in the liquid medium,

wherein the crosslinking agent ~~being~~ is prepared by combining a first and a second compound each having at least two reactive groups, the reactive groups of the first compound being primary amino groups, the reactive groups of the second compound being aldehyde groups.

Claim 2 (Original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the first compound comprises at least two carbon atoms, the termini of the backbone being defined as  $\alpha$  and  $\omega$ , respectively, the said termini both comprising the active groups.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, wherein the first compound is ~~chosen~~ at least one compound selected from the group consisting of diaminoalkanes, triamines, aromatic diamines, diamines having at least one hetero atom between the amino groups, and branched diamines ~~or a combination of two or more thereof~~.

Claim 4 (Original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the second compound is a dialdehyde.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, wherein the second compound is ~~chosen~~ at least one compound selected from the group, group consisting of glutaraldehyde, glyoxal, 2,3-pentadione, 2,4-pentadione, 2,4-hexadione, 3,4-hexadione, 3-methyl-2,4-pentadione, and 3-ethyl-2,4-pentadione, ~~or a combination of two or more thereof.~~

Claim 6 (Original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent is prepared in a substantially protein free environment.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, wherein the second and the first compound are combined in a molar ratio of 10-1:1, ~~preferably 4-1:1, more preferably of 2,5-1,5:1, most preferably of 2:1.~~

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Method according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme molecules are ~~chosen~~ selected from the group consisting of lipases, esterases, proteases, nitrilases, oxynitrilases, penicillin amidases and amino acylases.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): Crosslinked ~~enzymes aggregate~~ enzyme aggregates, obtainable by claim 1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Crosslinking agent prepared by combining ~~a first compound comprising at least two carbon atoms, the termini of the backbone being defined as  $\alpha$  and  $\omega$ , respectively, the said termini both comprising the active groups, the second compound being a dialdehyde~~ a first and a second compound each having at least two reactive groups, the reactive groups of the first compound being primary amino groups, the reactive groups of the second compound being aldehyde groups.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): Crosslinking agent according to claim 10, wherein the first compound is ~~chosen~~ at least one compound selected from the group consisting of diaminoalkanes, triamines, aromatic diamines, diamines having at least one hetero atom between the amino groups, and branched diamines ~~or a combination of two or more thereof~~.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): Crosslinking agent according to claim 10, wherein the second compound is at least one compound selected ~~chosen~~ from the ~~group~~, group consisting of glutaraldehyde, glyoxal, 2,3-pentadione, 2,4-pentadione, 2,4-hexadione, 3,4-hexadione, 3-methyl-2,4-pentadione, and 3-ethyl-2,4-pentadione, ~~or a combination of two or more thereof~~.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (New): Method according to claim 7, wherein the molar ratio is 4-1:1.

Claim 15 (New): Method according to claim 14, wherein the molar ratio is 2.5-1.5:1.

Claim 16 (New): Method according to claim 15, wherein the molar ratio is 2:1.

Claim 17 (New): A method of crosslinking a protein to another protein, comprising crosslinking with the crosslinking agent according to claim 10.

Claim 18 (New): Method of crosslinking a protein to a carrier, comprising crosslinking with the crosslinking agent according to claim 10.

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Claim 19 (New): Method according to claim 18, wherein the carrier is a solid carrier.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by making a grammatical change, although no change in claim scope has been effected. Claims 3, 5, 8, 11 and 12 have each been amended by inserting appropriate Markush terminology. Claim 7 has been amended by deleting recited alternative and narrower embodiments. Claim 9 has been amended to correct a grammatical error. Claim 10 has been amended to be consistent with Claim 1. Claim 13 has been cancelled.

New Claims 14-19 have been added. Claims 14-16 are drawn to subject matter deleted from Claim 7. Claims 17-19 are drawn to a method for the use as recited in Claim 13.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-12 and 14-19 are now pending in the application.